



YOUR ENERGY CONNECTION

March Winds Blowing

How to Cut the Drafts

So often in March warm weather peeks in and gives everyone a taste of what is to come. Inevitably, cold weather sneaks back in to remind us winter isn't over yet. There is still time to save on heating bills by winterizing your homes.

These hints can help lower utility costs in ten easy steps:

1. Install a programmable setback thermostat to conveniently and effectively control heating costs without sacrificing comfort.
Lower the temperature setting at night and when you are not at home.
2. Check your furnace filter frequently and replace or clean it as needed. A dirty furnace filter can drive up the cost of heating your home.
3. Add a humidifier—either on your furnace or as a separate unit. It can help control heating costs because moist air feels warmer.
4. Adjust register openings to keep various rooms of your home at the desired temperature. Remember heat rises, so you may want to partially close upstairs registers.
5. Use draperies, blinds, curtains or shutters on all windows to slow the loss of heat through the glass. Keep window coverings open on sunny days to let in the sun's warmth. Close them to insulate against colder air at night.
6. Rearrange furniture for winter, placing it next to inside, instead of outside walls and away from windows. Avoid blocking heating registers and air returns with furniture, draperies or carpet.
7. Use kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans sparingly in cold weather. In just one hour, these fans can blow away a houseful of warm air.
8. If you have ceiling fans, make sure the mountings are snug and tight. Use clear caulking to seal any leaks you may find as even small cracks around the base can let in lots of cold air.
9. Purchase some inexpensive pre-cut insulation gaskets and seal out the cold air entering your home through electrical switches and outlet plates, particularly those on outside walls.
10. Closets and cabinets on outside walls can leak a great deal of cold air, so make sure the doors fit snugly and keep them tightly closed.



Remember low cost and no cost energy saving measures can reduce utility costs

BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing. There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control-

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available. Customers receive **\$2.00** credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control-

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat. Customers receive **\$15.00** credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control-

Customers receive **\$20.00** credit each month for July, August, and September. The credit is calculated based on yearly consumption. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

Call 972-1283 for more information.
Start your savings now!



March 2005

Need Help Reducing Your Utility Bill?

The City of Rocky Mount in conjunction with Home Depot will be hosting energy conservation clinics throughout the winter

Clinic Dates

March	10th	7 pm
March	24th	10 am

Daytime class will be held at the Environmental Services Training Room at 1211 Thorpe Rd

Please call 972-1274 to reserve a space

The evening class will be held at Home Depot
No reservation is required

Would you like this presentation given to your group or club?
Call 972-1274 to make arrangements



Is proud to sponsor the

Twin Counties Great American Cleanup

March 5th–April 16th 2005!

Volunteer now to clean and beautify our communities in the Twin Counties Great American Cleanup. Register to win a Honda, do a litter cleanup or community beautification event, and get free stuff! Volunteer litter cleanup and beautification is absolutely necessary to keep us connected and to keep our communities clean!

March 5th is our Rocky Mount Kick-Off at the Arts Center/Children's Museum!

Trees and flower seeds will be given to groups registering to do a cleanup or beautification project. Groups can do cleanups any time between Mar. 5th and Apr. 16th.

April 16th is our big Rocky Mount Great American Cleanup Day at Sunset Park!

Land based volunteer groups will be cleaning up neighborhoods and road sides. Also, river cleanups will be conducted to celebrate the arrival of our own Tar Riverkeeper on her “Paddle for Clean Water”. At 8:00 a.m. Keep America Beautiful will be there to register cleanup groups, provide supplies and serve breakfast snacks. At 11:00 pizza, door and raffle prizes, games and entertainment will be offered to returning cleanup groups!

For info contact Cass Wigent KAB Coordinator at 972-1327 or 343-3212

Before construction, excavation or digging is done on your premises, call to have underground gas lines marked and located

**NC One-Call
1-800-632-4949**



Tree Seedling Giveaway

Beginning March 7th through March 11th Red Bud tree seedlings will be given away in the atrium of City Hall while supplies last

The giveaway is limited to 2 per customer